



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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PHOENIX MAN SENTENCED TO 210 MONTHS ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

TUCSON – Michael Jay Dennis, 38, of Phoenix, AZ, was sentenced in Tucson Tuesday to 210 months incarceration by U.S. District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson. Dennis had pleaded guilty on December 1, 2005, to Transportation and Shipping and Possession of Child Pornography.

In January of 2004, while acting in an undercover capacity, agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigations logged into a chat room and found an individual who was trading child pornography by means of a file sharing system commonly referred to as an F-serve and identified by the screen name "Darth-Vad." Follow up investigation revealed that the individual using that screen name and making the files, which depicted minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, available for sharing, was receiving internet service at an address in Phoenix.

On February 3, 2004, agents executed a search warrant at the defendant's residence and seized a computer, computer equipment and loose storage media consisting of compact discs and floppy diskettes. During a forensic review of that computer and loose storage media, over 600 images and movies of children engaged in sexually explicit conduct were located, including images of prepubescent children (under the age of 12) and images of sadistic and masochistic conduct, and of children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. On the date the search warrant was executed and through the forensic review of the computer, agents also uncovered evidence that Dennis was sexually abusing a minor female and had been doing so for a period of years.

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office filed charges related to Child Molestation and Sexual Abuse of a Minor. Dennis went to trial and was convicted on those charges and sentenced to 45 years incarceration in September of 2004. Dennis had been held in custody since February of 2004, pending resolution of the Maricopa County charges and Federal charges. The sentence of 210 months incarceration imposed by District Judge Jorgenson was ordered to run concurrent on each count of conviction contained in the Federal indictment (Transportation and Shipping and Possession of Child Pornography), but consecutive to the sentence that Dennis is currently serving for his convictions in Maricopa County. The 210 month sentence will also be followed by supervised release for the remainder of Dennis' life with a number of conditions including the condition that he register as a sex offender.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the FBI, the Phoenix Police Department, the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force and the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. The prosecution was handled by Judson T. Mihok, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

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